

**State and Tribal Government Working Group  
Stewardship Committee  
FY01 Annual Report**

**FY 01 Annual Report**

**White Papers**

**Survey on Classified Waste/Material Stewardship Activities**

**Land Transfers in the Department of Energy**

**Information Management for Long-Term Stewardship**

**Long-Term Cost Estimation in the Department of Energy**

**Stewardship Committee Members**

Steve Tarlton (Colorado) - Co-Chair  
Neil Weber (San Ildefonso Pueblo) – Co-Chair  
Joseph Chavarria (Santa Clara Pueblo)  
Peter Chestnut (San Ildefonso Pueblo)  
Christina Cutler (Shoshone-Bannock Tribes)  
Robert Geller (Missouri)  
Russell Jim (Yakama Tribe)  
Aaron Miles Sr. (Nez Perce Tribe)  
Armand Minthorn (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation)  
John Owsley (Tennessee)  
Max Power (Washington)  
Cheryl Runyon (NCSL)  
Greg Sullivan (DOE EM-51)  
Tuss Taylor (Kentucky)  
John Walker (Nevada)  
Tom Winston (Ohio)  
Diana Yupe (Shoshone-Bannock Tribes)  
Tom Zeilman (Yakama Tribe)

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**Committee Mission:**

The Long-Term Stewardship Committee will track DOE and other efforts to address issues associated with long-term stewardship (LTS) and will contribute to the commentary and information associated with these issues on the behalf of STGWG and its members.

*The status of specific activities in support of this mission for Federal Fiscal Year 01 is noted in italics below.*

**FFY 01 Activities:**

A. Monitor the topic area on behalf of the full STGWG

*During the past year, Committee members have tracked LTS issues through personal contacts, local involvement, attendance at national meetings and through collaborative efforts with the DOE and with other organizations.*

B. Plan sessions on the topic for the full STGWG meetings

*LTS sessions have been held at the Spring and Fall STGWG meetings and have included reports from Committee members, the DOE, other groups active in LTS and the EPA.*

C. Serve as a state/tribal contact for DOE on this topic area

1. STGWG will sign a joint letter with the NGA, NAAG, and ECA to the DOE transition team supporting continued emphasis on and progress in stewardship. STGWG participated in the development of this letter; however, other organizations were unable to participate and the letter was never finalized.

2. The Committee will establish a working relationship with staff responsible for Long-Term Stewardship in DOE HQ and stay current on national activities.

*Committee members have interacted routinely with DOE LTS staff at HQ and in Idaho and Grand Junction. Information obtained from DOE staff is distributed through Committee emails.*

*Committee Co-Chairs or members have represented STGWG in the following organizations or meetings:*

- *NGA Federal Facilities Task Force Stewardship Committee*
- *EMAB Stewardship Committee*
- *ECOS Stewardship Committee*
- *Energy Communities Alliance*
- *Interstate Technology Regulatory Coordination Group*
- *Multi-Federal Agency meeting convened by ECOS in Washington, DC in June*

- *The IIIRM Stewardship Workshop in Denver in March*
- *Multi-organization meeting convened by ECOS in Grand Junction in August*

- D. Provide a forum for state and tribal members to exchange information on the topic
1. The Committee will identify and pursue issues related to disposal of classified waste and its impacts on long term stewardship. Discussion of this topic will be encouraged through email, and if sufficient interest is demonstrated, this may move to another category (meeting topic, research, member surveys, etc.)

*The Committee conducted a survey of members to determine whether disposal of classified materials was a problem. As a result of the survey and subsequent research, a white paper has been drafted discussing the issue and recommending some follow on activities.*

- E. Solicit information from the STGWG members to identify problems, challenges and success stories

1. STGWG is concerned about ensuring effective implementation of long term stewardship when land is transferred from DOE to external parties. Information on this topic will be solicited by the Committee, and results compiled. If sufficient interest or questions are identified, additional steps will be taken through further discussion or research.

*The Committee surveyed STGWG members on land transfer experiences at the various sites. The survey revealed significantly different perspectives on the land transfer process. In addition, the Committee evaluated DOE's database of land transfers and specific information about specific site transfers. The results of the survey and additional research are presented in a white paper, which includes specific recommendations and subsequent activities.*

2. Major questions exist regarding what long-term stewardship information will be required; how will it be preserved and made accessible; how it should be provided to state and tribal officials; and what the state and tribal role is in information management. Rather than await DOE's response to these questions, the Committee will solicit this information from each STGWG state and tribe and compile these results into a white paper.

*The Committee surveyed STGWG members for information regarding information management for long-term activities. The survey revealed little state or tribal capability for long-term information management. These results and recommendations are included in a white paper.*

F. Review and submit comments on DOE documents on the topic area

1. The Committee reviewed and commented on the Draft Long-Term Stewardship Study, October 2000, and will also review the comment responses and changes to the final document.

*While draft responses to comments have been received and informally reviewed by the Committee, the Long-Term Stewardship Study has not been finalized and released. Upon release, the Committee will formally review the responses to STGWG comments and the completed document.*

2. The Committee will review the DOE Draft Strategic Plan, and two new policies affecting stewardship and comment as appropriate.

*The Committee reviewed several versions of strategic planning documents and the DOE HQ LTS policies. Individual members commented on these documents, but the Committee chose not to respond as a group.*

G. Perform independent research on the topic area and issue a report on the findings

1. The Committee will review the NDAA submittal and evaluate the information provided and identify other information or research needs, such as

a. Comparison of Costs Among Sites – The Committee will evaluate costs used in the NDAA submittal for similar activities among the sites to evaluate the appropriateness of the estimates. Where significant differences are identified, an attempt will be made to obtain further details on those specific estimates and reconcile the differences, possibly through changes in one or more site's cost estimates.

*The Committee worked with the NGA Federal Facilities Task Force Stewardship Committee and their contractor to review the LTS cost estimates in the NDAA Report to Congress. An immediate conclusion of this review was that the basis of estimate provided in the report was insufficient to compare costs among sites or to justify specific site costs. Committee members then contacted site staff responsible for developing the cost estimates and learned that a basis of estimate was not available for most sites. A review of the basis of estimate for two sites where they existed revealed little consistency for the costs estimated. This effort concluded that the uncertainty associated with the estimates provided to Congress were significantly greater than that reported, and verge on the completely speculative.*

b. Long-Term Cost Estimation - Current cost estimating techniques fail to provide a basis for the comparison of near-term costs with long-term costs. Even the NDAA Report to Congress truncated costs at 70 years in the future, clearly demonstrating the need for new methodology to properly account for costs lasting hundreds of years or more. The Committee will research the economics and cost estimating literature and interview experts in this field to identify potential methodology. Likely methods will

be compiled into a white paper and submitted to STGWG and the DOE for further evaluation.

*Committee members researched the economics and cost estimating literature and contacted academics to determine whether newer methodology existed that might more accurately reflect very long-term costs in a cost comparison. The results of this research are compiled in a white paper, which includes recommendations for further investigation.*

2. How will DOE meet trust responsibilities and treaty obligations with Tribal governments during cleanup and long-term stewardship? The Committee will work with the Tribal Issues Committee to compile treaty obligations and organize them into categories common to multiple tribes or sites. Possible generic solutions to resolving the obligations will be identified. The results will be compiled into a white paper.

*The Committee surveyed tribal members and conducted follow up interviews. Additional work is necessary to sort out responses and reconcile different attitudes towards compiling this information. DOE HQ is considering providing support in these efforts through a grant to the International Institute of Indigenous Resource Management.*